

Chairperson: Carlessia Hussein
 Vice Chairperson: Gary Stewart
 Executive Secretary: Maura Rossman, M.D., Antigone Vickery
 Recorded By: Gloria Whittington

HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
 November Meeting Minutes

DATE: November 28, 2017
TIME: 6:00 p.m.
PLACE: Howard County Health Department
 8930 Stanford Blvd., Columbia, MD 21045

Members Present: Carlessia Hussein, Darryl Burnett, Paul Nagy, Sheri Lewis, Bob Sheesley, **On the Phone:** Deborah Rivkin, Matt Reber

Members Excused: Gary Stewart, Kevin Carlson

Staff: Maura Rossman, Health Officer, Antigone Vickery, Deputy Health Officer, Gloria Whittington, Administrative Assistant

Guest: N/A

Topic/Agenda	Discussion	Action/Follow-up
Welcome and Introductions	Carlessia Hussein opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.	
Approval of Minutes	Motion to accept October's minutes.	The motion to accept the October 2017 minutes was approved unanimously.
New Business	<p><u>Welcome/Introductions</u></p> <p>Two Woodbine community residents Mr. & Mrs. Robert Long attended the meeting bringing concerns and documents in a brown envelope to discuss filing a formal complaint of Health and Safety Violations (Title 12, Howard County Code of Ordinances) against Erich Bonner and Oak Ridge Farm, 2700 Woodbine Road, Woodbine, MD 21797. These documents were delivered at 5 pm to the Health Department and have not been reviewed. Dr. Rossman invited Mr. & Mrs. Long to stay for the Board meeting which is open to the public and gave them 5 minutes to discuss their complaint. The Long's declined to stay and asked the Board to review the packets they delivered.</p> <p><u>Environmental Health update: Bert Nixon, Director of HCHD Environmental Health Bureau</u></p> <p>Zoning Regulations re: The complaint that was brought to the Board by Robert Long, resident of Woodbine and that community. The issue presented is not isolated to the particular property and is more complex. We need to review Council Bill #60. County has been trying to address this for a few years. Last month legislation was submitted amending county zoning regulation to address some issues raised by these residents</p> <p>Composting and Natural Wood Waste (Mulching) frequently asked questions about HC CB60/ZRA180: What is the Purpose – to allow farmers to mulch or compost excess organic waste that is part of a farming operation. Will CB60/ZRA180 permit industrial mulching on Agricultural Land Preservations Program Properties and what natural wood waste recycling activity would be permitted on land in agricultural preservation? A Taskforce was created by County and meetings were held and discussing the issue and some of the notices and ideas Bert brought to the board. Examining the bill will show what is allowed now and what is not. Taskforce couldn't reach consensus so a majority and minority report was issued so both sides of the issue was presented.</p>	A copy of this complaint was left for each of the Board members to review along with background documents provided by Mr. Nixon. The Board needs to review the information. Dr. Rossman will follow up with Mr. & Mrs. Long by Friday 12/1 on the next steps.

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	<p>As a result zoning amendments were proposed.</p> <p>Bert Nixon provided an overview of Environmental Health Bureau services, structure and authorities. Much of the authority is provided to local health departments (LHDs) through MD Dept of Environment. There is an MOU between MDH (LHDs) and MDE which explains all the authorities. This was also distributed as a handout.</p> <p>Mr. Nixon also reviewed the various types of investigations that occur that include emergency preparedness related, water, radiation, air, foodborne, and vector. The PHAB accreditation process has helped us review and clarify our procedures (and note corresponding legal authorities). Our health clinic / communicable disease uses a similar flow chart because some investigation overlap.</p> <p>Mr. Nixon discussed the Bureau's and distributed an organization chart. There are three programs in our Environmental Health Bureau:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Food Protection/Inspections 2. Well & Septic and 3. Community Hygiene (includes noise, public pools, opening burning, nuisance, mosquitos/vector control, rabies control) <p>Mr. Nixon then discussed the BOH powers and duties. One of the responsibilities of the BOH is to act like an appeals board which doesn't happen frequently. Village of Cattails Creek which was several years ago.</p> <p>Bert distributed a copy of a "Notice of Violation". This is a tool used in the Department's enforcement strategy. A "Notice" documents an issue. In the letter, there is standard set language that lets the violator know they can request a formal hearing from the BOH within 15 days via written request, and then something would be scheduled. Normally, when Notices are issued, violators comply. If not, the Bureau issues civil citations, which means they get adjudicated in district court (HCHD is represented by County Law Office). Each side presents facts and the Judge decides. Sometimes there is settlement. Sometimes people don't show up. Staff are always informed if they issue a Notice they should plan on going to court. A citation can be used to educate and improve the situation instead of court.</p> <p>Since the Board frequents restaurants in the County, they expressed interest in the inspection of restaurants and violations. Facilities are in three (3) categories based on the type of food served: High Priority (e.g., facility where food is prepared, cooked, reheat, cooled, -- potentially several hazardous points; inspected 3/yr) compared to Low Priority (e.g., liquor store, sell pre-packaged foods); Moderate Priority (e.g. cook and served fast food establishments). A lot of training required of inspectors, who are standardized, to ensure they can identify and report and respond violations. Sometimes repeated violations result in Notice of Violation. The County has 1200 licensed food service facilities. When fully staffed, HCHD conducts 2700 food inspections/year.</p> <p>A question was raised 'how do you deal with 'repeat offenders''. Strategic goal is to improve our inspections by keeping staff trained and updated on Policy and Procedures. If we meet our goals of targeted inspections and re-inspections, then (hopefully) fewer violations will occur.</p>	

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	<p>legislation at the HC delegation's public meeting on Wednesday Nov 29, 2017. Board members are in favor of this legislation.</p> <p>Suggested topics for future meetings: CAREAPP Project</p> <p>Next BOH meeting scheduled for December 19, 2017</p>	
Adjournment	<i>There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.</i>	

Next Board of Health Meeting: December 19, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at Howard Co. Health Department 8930 Stanford Blvd. 1st Floor, Columbia, MD 21045